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22 June 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Administration  
 Deputy Director for Intelligence  
 Deputy Director for Operations  
 Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT : Items for Museum Exhibits (U)

1. (U) The Management Advisory Group suggested recently to the DCI that the Agency should explore the feasibility of a CIA exhibit about intelligence at the Smithsonian Institute or other appropriate museum locations. This suggestion is in keeping with the various alternatives we have been discussing for new initiatives in furthering public understanding and support of the intelligence mission.

2. (S) There have been past contacts with the Smithsonian Institute and the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library on the subject of availability of Agency materials:

a. In January 1976 the Director, National Air and Space Museum, requested from CIA title to a U-2 aircraft plus related artifacts from a 1972 Agency exhibit on the Cuban missile crisis. Their interest and exhibit stress was not to be CIA but "significant advancements in technology". Except for the U-2, these materials were transferred to the Smithsonian for preparation and integration into appropriate displays at the Air and Space Museum. Museum officials were referred to the United States Air Force for a U-2.

b. Also, in January 1976 Smithsonian officials requested the "world's first successful reconnaissance satellite" and associated artifacts as displayed at the National Photographic Interpretation Center. They were advised that although this particular exhibit was classified, they could take possession pending declassification. Smithsonian declined the offer, expressing continued interest following declassification.

c. Soon thereafter, representatives of the Kennedy Memorial Library requested and received a total of 31 NPIC exhibit panels relating to the Cuban missile crisis.

3. (U) Both Smithsonian and the Memorial Library have continued to express interest in Agency materials suitable for exhibition relating to advanced technology and President Kennedy respectively.

4. (C) In order to assess the availability of potential exhibit materials, I am asking each of you to assign a senior officer on your staff to prepare an inventory of materials in the possession of your Directorate which you consider suitable for this purpose. I have asked Mr. [REDACTED] (O/DCI) and Mr. [REDACTED] (DDO/MAG) to coordinate the assessment process and the development of a plan for offering appropriate materials for exhibition at the Smithsonian Institute or other museums.

5. (U) Your representative should identify himself to Mr. [REDACTED] as soon as possible in order that discussions between the Directorate representatives and Messrs. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] may begin without delay.

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[REDACTED]

E. H. Knoche  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

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